

VENTURE

44



VENTURE 44 The magazine of the 44th Gloucester
Sir Thomas Rich's School Venture Scout Unit

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THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS REUNION WILL BE ON SUNDAY, 22nd
DECEMBER AT THE BOWLS CLUB S.T.R.S., 8.00 p.m.

Robert Holford

It came as a dreadful shock to all associated with the Unit to learn of the sudden death of Rob Holford on October the 15th. He collapsed and died not far from his home as a result of a viral infection.

Rob joined the Unit when he was in the fourth form and was one of the Unit's stalwarts during the rest of his school career. After he left school in the summer of 1983 he went into banking, but remained a frequent visit -or to Friday night events. Always a quiet and thoughtful Venture Scout, he proved an inspired choice for chairman in 1982 when he took over from Pat Phillips. Several old hands felt that this was not a wise move as he would not be assertive enough, but Rob soon demonstrated that this was not the case, and he thrived on the job. He took a great pride in learning the skills of a good chairman and rapidly earned the genuine respect of all of us. He ran executive meetings with authority and efficiency and set the highest standards for the Unit.

Rob took part in a wide range of activities including hikes on Offa's Dyke, conservation work at Bodesi, and organising the Unit on sponsored walks on the Malverns and with his loyalty and enthusiasm he was a great ambassador for the Unit and for Scouting in general.

I feel sometimes when an appreciation such as this is prepared that the writer may use a little licence to portray his subject in a good light. In this case there is no need for such licence - Rob really was a smashing person, and the news of his death was a shattering blow. If I may quote from one of the many letters I received from ex members who knew Rob, "I still can't believe it, it always seems to happen to the best people"

Our sympathies go out to Mr and Mrs Holford and to brother Adrian. Rob will be greatly missed by both family and friends, particularly those of the 44th

Frank

EDITORIAL

In this issue we have a wide range of articles. For those of you who enjoyed the motorcycle issue there is one by an ex-member on the work in an intensive care unit. Also in this issue is a special cultural corner - where two articles try to present the broad spectrum of activities in which the Unit indulges. One concerns a visit to the Cheltenham Literary Festival to a lecture on the famous poet Shelley, and the other gives a view on what goes on at a Rock Festival.

A couple of months ago eight members of the Unit attempted the intrepid adventure of shooting the River Wye rapids on rafts (it was a shame that they were only a foot deep and ran for about twenty yards at the finish of the eight mile course) in an event run by Churchdown V.S.U. Later in this issue you will learn more about the daring deeds of the motley crews, (the efforts of the support team and the raft makers should not go unmentioned - thanks, lads!).

Earlier this month we held a successful jumble sale at Longlevens Village Hall, gaining a profit of over one hundred and forty pounds. Thanks again to all who helped. Some members of the Unit, me included, took advantage of this opportunity to expand their wardrobes to varying degrees of success. Another opportunity to gain useful clothing and equipment of quite a different nature came when Pete Brown of Mountain Gear brought some samples of his wares to the Hut one Friday night. On another Friday night senior members helped out at the County Bowls Assn Dinner by acting as accomplished Wine waiters.

A slide show on the Summer Expedition to Ireland was attended by over fifty people, and twelve members braved the autumnal weather on a five day visit to Bodesi over the half term holiday, when a selection of summits were conquered.

Lastly, a substantial number of the Unit's members

will either be treading the boards or working behind the scenes in the school's production of the Mikado in a few weeks time. Considering the content of this issue and the G. and S. it would seem that the Unit contains at least a few "Culture Vultures"

Neil

THE LEE OF THE NOT SO ANCIENT MARINERS

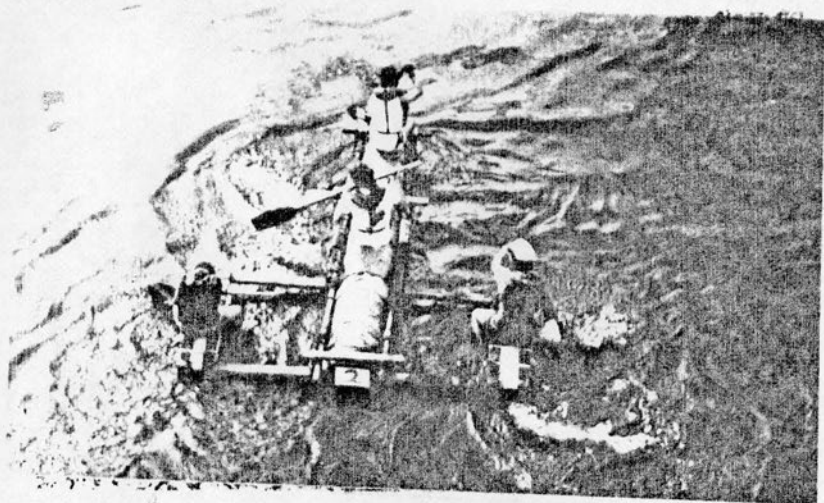
After a cramped $\frac{1}{2}$ hour in the van we arrived at Ross where most rafts were ready for the off. Our rafts, of course, were in kit form but with time short, assembly proved more complex than expected due to Marcus's baffling part numbering. (We got it wrong, naturally!)

The launch proved even more amusing than last year when the weight of Rich Booth nearly sank the raft, and we almost lost an outrigger by hitting the bridge. That apart, we had a fairly good start 3rd from last. However that soon changed as the two behind us sank - aren't we a credit to the Unit!?!.

On the whole the journey was very smooth, well apart from running aground several times, mass warfare with Beaufort (who decided to ram us after we mentioned a certain Pop Quiz)...and outright mutiny by two of the crew Gary and Neil, resulting in all of us getting very wet. Total reorganisation of the crew followed - Marcus and Gary being banished to sit, lie or even stand on the outriggers. However for the rest of the time we worked as a team and powered our way down the course. We even managed to cross the finishing line (closely followed by the crews, rather wet, of the rafts that sank), cheered on by spectators eager to get home - even the refreshment tent had closed down when we got there!

Lee

N.B. The super raft was designed and mainly built by Jason Stone and Rich Booth, neither of whom dared to go to watch the event!



The machine....



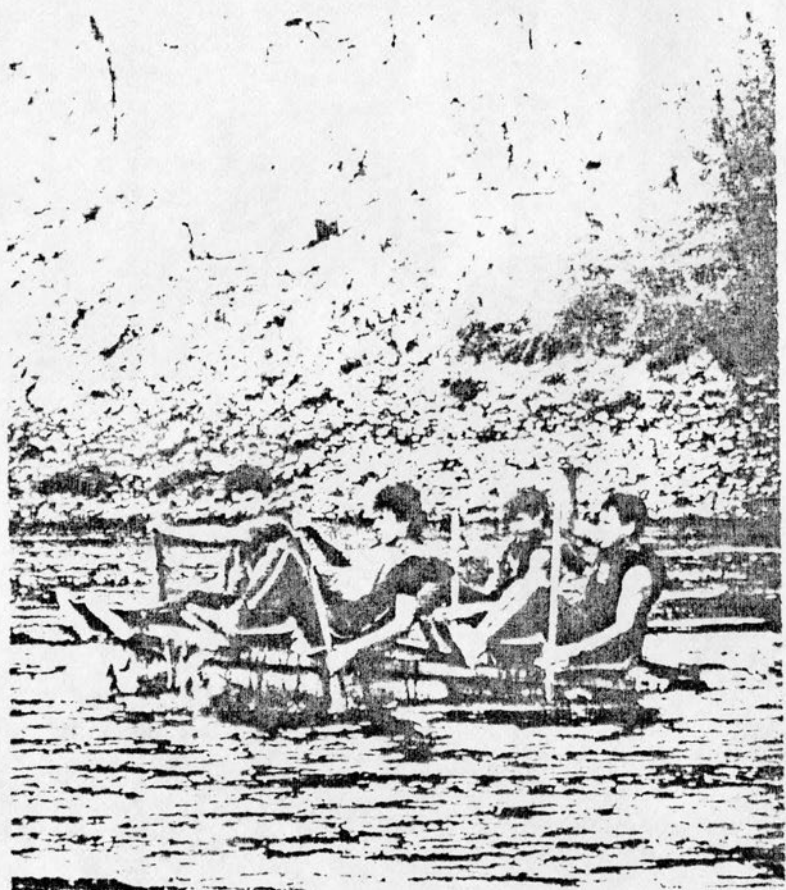
The men.....

Lee

Gary

Marcus

Neil



The boys....

Joe James Adam Sean

...THE YOUNG ONES...

Arriving at the riverside field littered with strange and peculiarly designed craft, we unloaded and rapidly assembled our raft (unlike ceratin other people...) Look-ing like spacemen dressed in wet suits (courtesy of Joe) which were incredibly tight fitting and caused perhaps the greatest discomfort during the race, we launched our "Bluebird 44". Manoevring into position we hit only four other craft before setting off. To our chagrin we were astonished at one point to be passed by that other pathetic bunch. We quickly remedied this, and they were soon just a spot on the horizon. After about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile our arms were aching and groans of agony were scarcely stifled by our gallant crew (Joe Clyde, Sean Watts, my brother Adam and me). We paddled mechanically for the next few miles, ever convinced that the finish was just round the corner. Passing under Kerne Bridge, which was crowded with cheer-ing spectators, we were absolutely certain that we had reached the end, so we stopped and lost ground(water) to the team behind us. Pausing only to soak our rivals with bitter emnity and cold water, we accelerated to $\frac{1}{4}$ m.p.h. and continued on at this heady pace, hitching a passing dragonfly to increase speed. We paddled on as if our arms were covered with toffee. Eventually we rounded a bend and were there! The others took about an hour more!

James Foster

N.B. Raft designed and built by crew, Ally Smith and Dan Mills.

Nursing in an Intensive Care Unit

Before returning to Gloucester recently, I worked in the intensive care unit at Charing Cross Hospital, London. Purpose built (at a ratio of 1:100 hospital beds) it is an eight bedded unit, which has just been refitted with the most modern equipment and takes general intensive

care patients as opposed to any one speciality. Far from the "traditional" stereotype Dr./nurse image, roles here are equal and I had responsibility for all medical and nursing care that my patient received during my shift, including monitoring, breathing machines, drugs, X-rays, etc. For all this, extra training is necessary and while I've been working I've also been assessed and have spent time on study leave for a "General Nursing Certificate in Intensive Care".

I.T.U.s are frightening to the uninitiated, as too to anyone having the misfortune to have experienced one will agree. Full of machinery, audio and visual alarms, it presents a constant assault on the person's mental and physical self (in some long-term patients an 'I.T.U psychosis' can occur where the person becomes totally disorientated - scaring indeed!

In general, patients in intensive care are admitted either after surgery or an emergency. e.g. road traffic accident, cardiac arrest, breathing problems. However, all patients present common problems usually concerning the following broad categories.

1) The Cardiac system. Mostly supported by drugs which work to either increase the efficiency of the heart muscle itself or decrease the work-load the heart has to endure (incidentally, the heart beats approximately three thousand million times during an average life-time. These drugs are usually introduced very slowly intravenously by highly sensitive pumps. We monitor the patients heart beat by chest electrodes, which give a visual display on an E.C.G. (electrocardiograph). From the E.C.G. we can tell heart-rate, and any changes that are occurring within the heart. Blood pressure is measured at fifteen minute intervals.

2) The Respiratory system. Supported by the ventilator, or breathing machine, (the "life support system" to the layman). Practically these are nothing more than highly sophisticated bellows which blow air into the patients

lungs by a system of tubes. Because of these tubes, the patient cannot talk, and communication is sometimes a problem. Physiotherapy and daily chest X rays are vital, as this gives an idea of how well the lungs are working. The oxygen and carbon dioxide content of the blood are measured by taking regular samples.

3) The Central Nervous System Depression. If one of the 44th's members was to come off his motorbike, and hit his head at high speed, his brain would doubtless suffer some "depression" - not the crying kind, but where it is actually damaged, and parts of it stop working, either on a temporary basis, or permanently. This depression can be measured simply, or more accurately with the C.A.T. scanners that are so often in the news. Unfortunately if the damage is very bad, full recovery is seldom achieved.

4) The Renal System failure. When the kidneys stop, the body's poisons must be got rid of artificially, so it is quite common to see different types of kidney machine in operation in an I.T.U. Luckily renal failure here is only temporary in most cases, so kidney machines aren't needed at home afterwards.

5) Hepatic or Liver failure is often a very serious complication. Until recently the symptoms had to be treated, but now advances are being made in transplants, particularly in children. Liver failure is measured by tests done on chemicals in the blood stream.

This is a brief outline of work done in an intensive therapy unit. The day is spent in logging observations, changing drips and pumps and regulating machinery. It is tiring, but very rewarding when patients recover, yet sad when death occurs. Without getting heavy, the six months I did on an I.T.U. has made me realise how lucky I am to be a giver of care, not a receiver. There is a proverb "I was sad because I had no shoes, until I met a man with no feet". Think about it.

Ian Fletcher

CULTURE CORNER (I)

Upon arriving at Cheltenham, we entered the Town Hall where the lecture was to take place. The audience consisted of a broad variety of age groups. Some of the party were apprehensive of a lecture on poetry. They were expecting some middle-aged, out of touch intellectual talking over their heads about an uninspiring writer romanticising about the beauty of the "lilting flower" and the "flowing brook". However, tonight a victory was won over narrow mindedness.

Paul Foot delivered his speech with an amazing enthusiasm and love for the subject: Shelley (a poet to you plebs). The party was quite innocent of any knowledge about the poet, but we left with an appreciation of the subject. Shelley lived for his art, and yet he made no money except for forty pounds for two early novels. He was no mere rhymster, but an original and philosophical artist. He wrote prose, also, and the subject of this was often political, and radically so. His views threw him into disrepute in England, and so he undertook voluntary exile in Italy. It was this country that stimulated his best poetry. At this time his work was detested by the English literary critics.

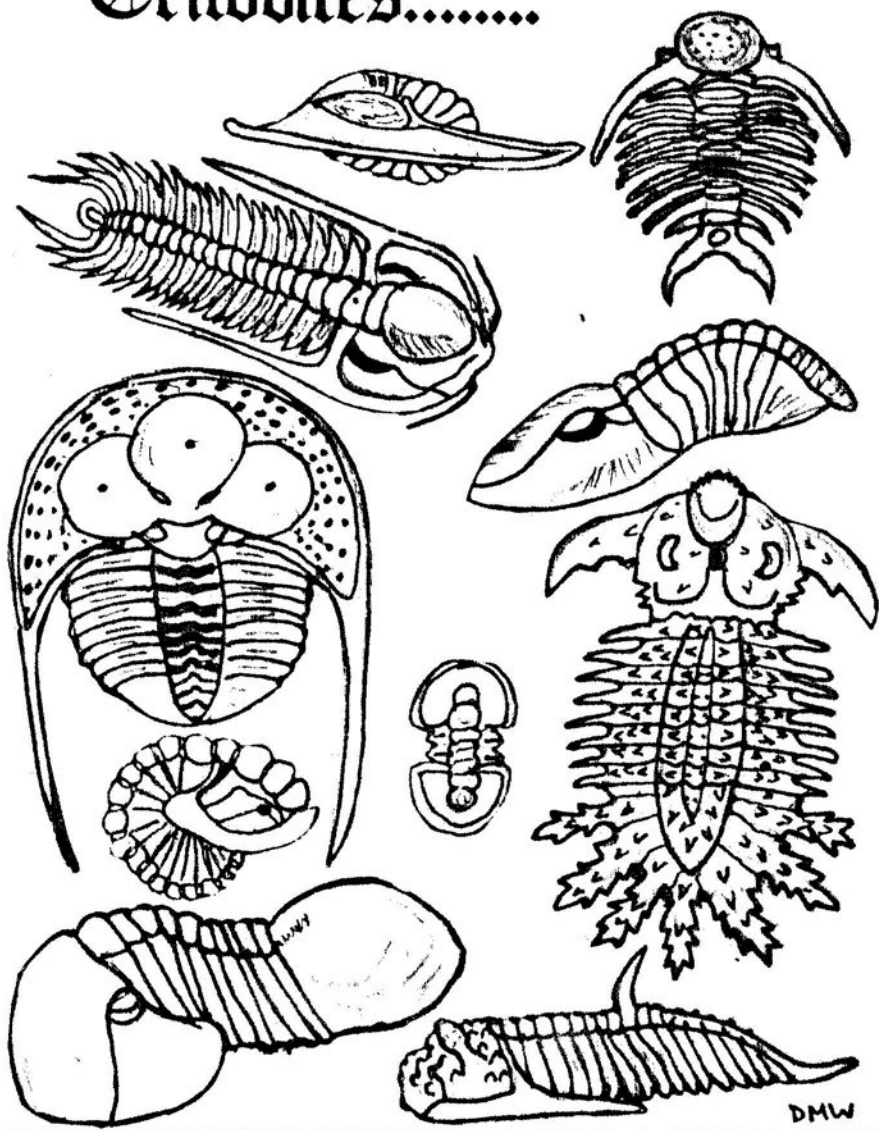
Politically, Shelley believed that "the people were the agents of their own release". This view fits in with the communist philosophy of Karl Marx, and was written by Shelley long before Marx started writing.

With the political views that were flying by now, Steve was clutching his copy of the "Spectator" (I'd rather be dead than Red, Ed) (Thats poetry!) and the V.S.L. had a broad smile on his face. Paul Foot really captivated the large audience (including Melvyn Bragg) and even Derek was heard to say "It wasn't boring."

Taking very little prompting from notes, Paul Foot delivered an inspiring and much appreciated speech. The man couldn't put a Foot wrong.....

Rich Booth

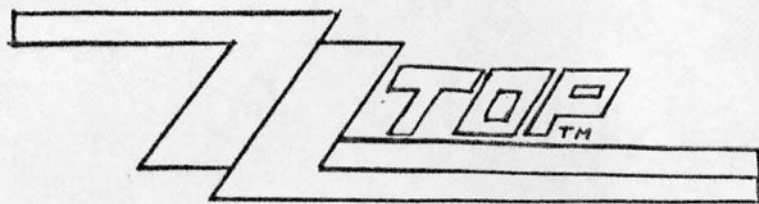
Trilobites.....



DMW

Yet more culture (?)

DOMINGTON PARK



MARILLION

&

SUPPORTING ARTISTS

17TH AUGUST 85

CULTURE CORNER (II)

£21.50 for a concert ticket! This festival had better be good! As Scout magazine editors myself and Neil decide to make the trip up to Derbyshire by coach to see this summers(?) Castle Donnington "Monsters of Rock" Festival.

We left Gloucester at about 8.30, and arrived at the site, miles from anywhere, at around 12.15. The day's proceedings were supposed to start at 1.00p.m. We queued for about half an hour to buy some official merchandise (£8.00 for a T-shirt, £3.00 for a programme!) After finding a place in the audience, which numbered around 50 -60,000, we waited for MAGNUM. The group were late additions to the bill but very welcome ones. Nevertheless Magnum have always seemed to verge on the very succesful their music being very capable of taking them to fame. At Donnington they played a good set, although perhaps their choice of songs was a little disappointing. Their stage presentation was not the most dynamic I have seen, but they received a reasonable audience response.

Next up were RATT, an American heavy metal group. As far as I am concerned they can stay in America! They are truly appalling. Everything was just a noise, so nothing could be distinguished from the cacophony. After Ratt came METALLICA, another American metal act - Who picks these groups? Metallica were only slightly less appalling than Ratt. They were good at what they do, but definitely not my cup of tea!

I was looking forward to seeing BON JOVI, an act from America (What? More Yanks?) along the lines of VAN HALEN. Tracks like "Runaway" and "Tokyo Road" went well, and everyone enjoyed the show. Bon Jovi have a good live act, although it does tend to reek of American showmanship and bravado. A band not to be taken too seriously, I think.

Well, the concert is just beginning because MARILLION

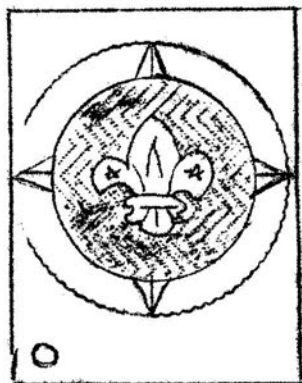
are next! "Summer Holiday" issues forth from the loud speakers, heralding the band's appearance on stage. The major success story of the past couple of years in the rock world, Marillion have a huge following which was in evidence at Donnington. They began with "Waterhole" and "Lords of the Backstage" from the "Misplaced Childhood" album, which also had its first side played to a good response. But most people had come to see the old favourites, "Script for a Jester's tear", "Assassing", and the brilliant "Garden Party", which merged into "Market Square Heroes". Excellent as ever, Marillion played a varied set, but I can't help thinking they are a band for the inside environment.

A gap of about three quarters of an hour followed, in which the traditional bottle throwing took place. Great fun, until you get hit! It hurts!! ZZ TOP were the band everyone had come to see. How two old guys up front and a drummer can produce such mass hysteria defeats me. Needless to say, they were excellent. Beginning with "Got me under pressure", "Gimme all your lovin'", and "Sharp dressed man", how could they fail? Unknown in the U.K. among the general public until 1984, when their videos were shown on television. ZZ Top are now enjoying the massive success they so rightly deserve. They played an astonishing set, ending with the brilliant "Tush"
A great day out! Steve

EXPEDITION 1986

Plans are now being made for a Unit expedition next year to Norway. As with the two most recent visits it will probably be between 2 and 3 weeks in August, and we hope to be able to give service in a N.I.C. project. Any ex-members interested should contact the V.S.L. before Christmas. The cost should be around £175 per head, and details should be finalised in January.

F.H.

FROM ALL POINTS

Over the past few months a large number of ex-members have been in touch, some from the other side of the world. CHRIS PASHLEY has now moved from Hong Kong to Taipei, and PETE GREEN has circumnavigated the world once more. ROW LLOYD and SIMON WILLIAMS were both involved in the Nansen International Centre summer project "Walk Norway". Report on this from Simon in next issue.

Two stalwarts who are now back in Gloucester are IAN FLETCHER, working at the Royal Hospital and playing foot ball again, and MARK SIMMONS, who is working in the local museum in a job once held by CHRIS COLLINS. Chris has achieved the ultimate in success by appearing on "Blue Peter" assembling a dinosaur at Leicester museum. It can be now revealed however, that much of the Cetiosaurus is in fact made of polystyrene. Several members of the Unit spent an interesting morning in the back rooms of the museum at Leicester last month observing the experts putting the fossil together.

Congratulations to DAVE BROWN, who has become a father again, and to RICH KERSWELL, who has not become one but who has gained top honours in his course after a year at Cambridge. Academic success also to MIKE TOWKAN, top student in his course at Aston, and NIGEL BREWSTER, who has completed his degree and is now working in Surrey.

PAUL JENNINGS has also eventually completed his formal education, and has been working in London on several schemes relating to energy conservation for the G.L.C., perhaps that is the reason why Mrs Thatcher is so keen to close the G.L.C. down?

Various people have been travelling this summer to odd corners of Europe. BRI HERBERT has been in Greece, and SIMON HAWKINS has been geologising in Northern Spain scene of last years Unit expedition. DAVE WILSON spent several weeks in the wilds of Cradley....

KEITH FRANKLIN has finished his R.A.F. career, and is now free to write that article we have patiently wait-ed eight years for. MIKE BARTON is threatening to write an article (horror story(?)) about a hair-raising clash with a dangerous criminal, but I doubt if any reader can credit the tale, albeit totally true! STUART BISHOP has not been seen at football lately - there is some story about his being bowled over by a lorry.... DAVE SEED is thoroughly enjoying his course at Art College in Derby, and JOHN PEPPERELL may be back in Gloucester soon doing part of his sandwich course at Downtys. PADDY SMITH, YOSH COWMEADOW, BRI SYMCOX and JON WRIGHT have all been fairly regular visitors over the past months, and JONNY MAY has called by - he seems to be commuting between Dorset and Manchester for some strange reason.

Recently seen in the Citizen, a photograph of one TONY (A.V.) Jones, just graduating from Gloscat with a degree in Landscape Architecture. Finally all readers are once more reminded of the CHRISTMAS REUNION to be held in the Bowls Club on SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER. Food will be released by Securicor at 9.00p.m., and finish at 9.01 p.m.

F.H.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

We extend a warm welcome to two newmembers of the Unit, Simon Clyde and Chris Brockwell.

HEADLINES IN TONIGHT'S PAPER (25.11.85)

CITY HERO IN SEA RESCUE... Gloucester sailor PETER GREEN has saved a man's life with an amazing show of gall-antry in hurricane swept seas! Well done Pete, we all look forward to the full details in our next issue!

